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MY IMPRESSIONS OF EUROPE

By

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Strangely enough the radio trip to ETO brought me an entirely unexpected reaction. Before embarkation I definitely had in mind a minute inspection of physical radio facilities and operational policies. However, the trip revealed a much broader aspect of radio responsibilities in Europe.

To illustrate, it is necessary to transcend the radio scene and take a look at the peoples of Europe. In England I definitely gained the impression that the common people of that country learned to know something about the common people of America for the first time in history. The English people, tired of war, found a new sympathy, understanding and friendship in the American G.I. That friendship for Americans, in my estimation, must be preserved and fostered.

In France I was impressed with a definite lackadaisical attitude on the part of the people. Having been stripped of her leadership and little hope of effective restoration in the foreseeable future, France seemingly has quit.

In Italy the least that can be said is that only a frustrated nation remains – a nation, however, that looks to the United States alone for help.

In Germany the peoples of the bombed-out cities have an inbred hate for

Americans and a firm resolve to repeat the atrocities of war if ever given another opportunity. Only occupation and a rebirth in the principles of Democratic education will change the format.

Concerning the Russians, I gained a definite impression that Americans are no exception in the inborn pattern of Russian distrust. On the other hand, there seemed to be a dim hope ahead that Russians are becoming curiously interested in American integrity.

What does all this have to do with radio in Europe? In my mind, it illustrates the need for a definite American message by radio for European consumption. America needs powerful radio voices inside Europe to tell again and again the story of freedom. We need to explain to Europeans that in the aggregate Americans are English, French, Italian, German, Russian and almost every other nationality on the face of the earth. We need to tell Europeans that our forefathers sprang from a common heritage and that it was these same forefathers who left the shores of their homelands to come to America in order that they might breathe the breath of life. That they came to these shores to fulfill a dream... that man could one day speak the thoughts of his own choosing, or could stroll through the streets at night, unafraid, or could speak to his own God, in his own church, without fear and trembling. That great strength, a youthful heart, vast enterprise and hard work created a newfound freedom. And from that freedom sprang the Democratic institutions of America and thus the greatest free people on earth. American radio voices in Europe need to reiterate that story day and night, expressing the hope that Europeans, too, may erect and build Democratic institutions. They need to be told that they may build free governments, which will be sustained by a free press and a free radio. Our American radio voices in Europe need to tell the story of a free radio with all due

emphasis on the fact that there cannot be a free press without a free radio. We need to so strongly inculcate that story in the European mind that, of their own volition, they will erect a system of a free radio and a system of a free press. By following these fundamental lessons, the propaganda pressure from other European radio voices will fall of its own weight. Freedom will spread, America will win the peace and Europe will win a new hope which will rebound forever to the glory of the United States. The continued use of short wave stations here at home will not do the whole job. Something more must be done. I, for one, heartily endorse our government's effort to secure time on Radio Luxembourg and Radio Monte Carlo – these two voices will go a long way toward the completion of the American scene in Europe.